





g commercial firms in the larger towns, but me are latterly turning their attention to the manufacture of goods for export. Min-O-Shok, president of the Commercial Bureau, who was in China and Japan during the early part of this year, has, in connection with a certain councillor in charge of military affairs, established a large export firm, with a view to further foreign trade. He intends, with the

old mines in Kyōng-sang-do and other provinces. The above-mentioned Councillor has, moreover, started a brewery and a wine factory, in connection with fourteen of his colleagues. White, red, yellow and blue (3 "blue" and 1 "red") wines are manufactured, and reported to be of excellent quality. Another firm, known as the Taide Trading Company, has

plants are semi-official. A secretary in the Foreign Office has opened a tobacco factory, and is engaged in the manufacture of cigars in the European style. The tobacco is of various grades, and the leaves more nearly approaching those of the western tobacco than does that of Japan. Should the manufacture of cigars be improved, there is very probability that the Korean tobacco will sell well.

that it does not reach the markets. The establishment of other trading firms is continually going on, and, though there are no data as to the actual result, the fact that the natives have begun to appreciate the importance of foreign trade is a good omen for the future. On the 21st of last September, the *Kokaki Maru*, a little vessel of 87 tons, bought in Japan, sailed for the first time from Kobe to Nagasaki with a full cargo.

The vessel was commanded by a Korean captain, and was the first to engage in direct export from Korea. The *Mail* translates the following from the *Yokohama Shimpō*:—The Consular Trade Report from Ginsen, Korea, as published in a recent number of the *Kōzaime*, says:—"The total amount of exports from this port for November, 1893, was 16,342.40 yen; of imports, 168,500.38

ports. As trade in this country is rarely carried on in specie, but is mostly the outcome of barter in exports and imports, the above-mentioned amount of exports represents the actual transactions done in imported goods, while other goods worth 152,257.98 yen remained unsold, and were kept over till December. The exports for the month of December reached 36,673.20 yen, as

showing again an excess of the latter over the former of 11,606 yds, which sum, added to that of the preceding month, gives a total of 163,155.06 yds. And this total represents the value of the goods accumulated at the end of December, 1883. "The depressed condition of trade at this port needs no further explanation." The same report says further:—"Copper, lead, and shirtings, the

are already given signs of a future decline; airings, in especial, being no longer in the hands of our merchants. The import of copper destined to fall off rapidly, as this metal has only been used in minting the new coins. But should the trade in copper and lead cease, our merchants would be utterly without employment. Should this unpleasant state of affairs come about, our merchants would fail to reap any

about whatever, despite the fact that we were the first in starting the foreign trade of Korea. It is most important that some means should at once be devised, whereby our merchants may be enabled to maintain their trade with the Koreans in perpetuity. And the maintenance of trade with Korea cannot be effected otherwise than by giving the initiative to a demand for articles other than copper lead, and shirtings."

the important parts of the Consular Report on the trade of Ginsen alone, they enable us to obtain a fair idea of the state of trade not merely in Ginsen or Pusan, but in all the Korean ports. We stated, some time ago, that our trade with Korea would not yield us great profits commercially, but would be rather of a diplomatico-mine. Last year, trade depression was not re-

world; but where barter takes the place of specie payments, where commodities of other than one or two kinds never find a market, where commerce is in a state of steady decline, where the settlers are like shipwrecked people cast away upon some lonely island, anxiously awaiting the sight of some passing vessel to rescue them,—it needs no lively imagination to picture their

ture improvement in commerce, they might endure the present misery without murmuring; but the stagnant trade is on the verge of total cessation, and there is no hope of future amelioration. It is, of course, in these days most important to assist our Korean trade, and we must, to that end, awaken a demand for other goods outside of opium, lead, and bird's nests. But how can this

effectively. Certainly not by folding our hands and bowing the stagnation of commerce. A radical change in the customs requirements, and present commercial system of the Koreans is absolutely indispensable. To make our meaning clearer, we shall refer to the Korean trade of 1882. The total imports of the two ports of Pusan and Ginsen amounted, in that year, to 1,773,379 tons, 1,527,682 tons being the value of the goods

ports from European and other foreign countries, the remaining 185,697 yua being the whole value of the Japanese imports. This was due solely to the reason of the demand in Korea being for articles other than those produced in this country. The total exports were 1,202,475 taen. But then these sums were obtained simply because our merchants were then the sole licensed vendors of foreign goods. Now that

This new plan will be a very keystone to the maintenance of our Korean trade, and may, perchance, alter the customs and fancies of the

the export of our produce. And yet this is by no means an easy task. Korea exports her own productions not for the sake of the development of her national industries, but in order to defray the cost of the imported goods she consumes. Our object may, therefore, be obtainable only when Korea has grown eager to develop her national resources. Just at present, there is no such feeling. It is, therefore, never correct

amount of gold-dust, cereals, hides, and the like. We cannot, in sober truth, discover anything in Korean trade which promises to yield our merchants a golden harvest. It remains to be seen how New England, America, and China will proceed with regard to their trade with Korea.

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LOOCHOO.

The Okinawa (Locochoo) correspondent of the *Tokyo Shimpō* writes under date of March 1st:—"In connection with the return of Mr. Shoten (son of Mr. Shotai, the former chief of the Okinawa clan) to this Prefecture, his father, who is now present at Tokiyō, has issued the following notice to the *Shiokoku* and people of this Island:—"The Court has shown great leniency and indulgence in the treatment of the people of Okinawa."

...and all should heartily respond to his wishes and obey the local administration. Anything contrary to this is very wrong. The return of Shoten is for the purpose of visiting the tombs of his ancestors and of adjusting family matters: this is the sole reason of his return. Therefore if any one should start a rumour to the effect of or otherwise agitate the public, it would not only harm the people of Okinawa, but cause

follow. The people should clearly understand the state of affairs; they should quietly follow their vocations, and refrain from violating the laws of the Government. I have given all necessary instructions to Shoten and his steward, which the people will hear of, without fail." This notice was published in the capital, Naha, in the form of circulars, and was read aloud in

be first time, thoroughly understand the motives of Mr. Shotai. Many listened to the reading of the circular with tears in their eyes, as they well appreciated the kind feelings of their one-time master towards his people. The followers of the Black Party, however, took no notice of the arrival of Shoten. They intend to appoint former influential official chief of the clan, and as a substitute.

the Chinese Government. But the influence of the faction is on the wane since the publication of the above circular, and many have even written apologetic letters to Mr. Shoten. —*Japan Mail*.







